

Ibn Ali sacks party's old guard

AMMAN (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali purged the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD) leadership on Tuesday, sacking from the political bureau all but three who served under deposed head of state Habib Bourguiba. The three who remain are Prime Minister Hedi Saccouche, the party's secretary-general, Hamed Karoui, its director, and Defence Minister Shadedine Baly. PSD treasurer, the official news agency TAP said. Those fired from the new political bureau — which is set from 20 to 12 members — include Mr. Bourguiba's son, former Foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba Junior. Three ex-cabinet ministers lost to his 84-year-old father, who was deposed on Nov. 7 after being declared senile, were sacked from the bureau nearly three weeks ago. They have been under house arrest since the takeover. Newcomers to the political bureau include Interior Minister Habib Ammar and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. TAP said Mr. Ibn Ali remains PSD president, despite calls from opposition parties for the head of state to relinquish any party post.

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جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية (الجريدة، الراي)

Israeli soldier killed in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was killed and a second wounded on Tuesday when their armoured personnel carrier drove over a mine in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the army said. The blast occurred in the central sector of the zone, north west of Bint Jbeil, a spokeswoman said. In a separate incident, militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) repelled a guerrilla attack, also in the central sector of the "security zone," sources said. The SLA militiamen found missiles and rocket-propelled grenades in the area of the clash and blood stains suggesting some guerrillas had been injured, they added. Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985, three years after it invaded the country. Several hundred Israeli soldiers remained to patrol the "security zone" with the SLA.

rown Prince receives cable of thanks from Ozal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a cable from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in reply to a congratulatory note the Crown Prince sent him the occasion of his relection as prime minister for a second term. In the cable, Mr. Ozal thanked His Highness for his kind message of congratulations and said expressively his conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation on all levels between Jordan and Turkey would continue to grow and flourish. The Turkish premier also thanked Prince Hassan continued good health, happiness and prosperity and well-being for the people of Jordan.

Highness Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a reply cable from Akef Al Fayed, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, thanking him for a congratulatory note over the successful operation he underwent in the U.S. Al Fayed also wished the Crown Prince continued good health and happiness.

First appeal turned down

ISCHW (R) — An appeal for pardon by Mathias Rust, the German pilot who landed in the Kremlin last May, has been turned down, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremik said on Tuesday. His request was "reviewed. The answer was negative," Gremik told a news conference. It had appealed for pardon to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body, after being sentenced in October to four years in a camp for hooliganism and violating flight and border laws.

Air crash was part of murder plot

N LUIS OBISPO, California — A disgruntled employee may have caused the crash of a Pacific Northwest Airlines (PSA) plane that killed 43 people, ABC News reported on Tuesday. Reporter Tom Sellek said authorities had found suicide note left by a disgruntled employee of U.S. Air, another airline, who said he was aiding the aircraft with a gun to kill a supervisor who was yelling on the plane on today.

Highness Crown Prince's father is in W. Bank

CUPPED JERUSALEM (R) — Bishara Sirhan, the father of Bishara Sirhan who assassinated U.S. presidential hopeful Robert Kennedy, died last week in his home village of Tafileh on occupied West Bank. Palestinian sources said on Tuesday, elder Sirhan, who was in his 80s, emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s. His wife and their children later joined him in the U.S. but after he left them to return to West Bank. He was in the West Bank in 1968 when his son and killed Robert Kennedy, the assassin of President Kennedy, in a California club.

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Superpowers sign INF treaty

Gorbachev and Reagan launch their third summit with expressions of high hopes for better East-West relations and end to arms race

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday signed a treaty abolishing medium-range missiles on the first day of a summit aimed at achieving even more sweeping arms cuts.

The intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed at 2:02 p.m. (1902 GMT) would destroy in three years some 2,800 missiles with 3,800 warheads, mainly based in Europe.

The president and the Kremlin leader entered the East Room of the White House for the ceremony with a hand playing "Hail to the Chief," the anthem of U.S. presidents, and after brief speeches they signed their names 16 times to the treaty in a ceremony attended by top U.S. and Soviet officials.

Mr. Reagan, with a smiling Mr. Gorbachev at his side, quoted several times from Russian proverbs and declared of the treaty: "We made this impossible

The signing of the treaty, one copy in Russian and the other in

vision a reality."

He added that although strong differences remain between the two countries, "we see what can be accomplished when we pull together."

Mr. Gorbachev said: "We can be proud of planting this sapling which one day may grow into a mighty tree of peace... but it is probably too early to bestow laurels on each other."

"May Dec. 8, 1987 become a date that will be inscribed in the history books, a date that will mark the watershed separating the era of mounting risk of nuclear war from the era of the demilitarisation of human life."

Following the signing, the two leaders stood to the sound of applause and exchanged the leather-bound documents, shaking hands warmly.

Leaders of the U.S. Senate must ratify the American adherence to the accord before it can take effect.

Also watching were Mr. Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, and Mr. Reagan's wife, Nancy.

Under terms of the accord, the United States will over three years scrap 396 Pershing 2 and

cruise missiles deployed in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium, and the Soviets will destroy 630 rockets, about 50 of which are in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"The importance of this treaty transcends numbers," said Mr. Reagan. "This agreement contains the most stringent verification procedures in arms-control history."

He said the accord protects America's friends and allies and that it could be a starting point for approaching other concerns of the superpowers — strategic weapons, the balance of conventional forces in Europe, regional conflicts and human rights.

Mr. Gorbachev called for the leaders to continue moving towards "an era of demilitarisation of human life."

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan held the first round of their summit conference on Tuesday, saying they intended to make progress to cutting their long-range nuclear

(Continued on page 3)

Police nab 3-man gang behind murder of moneymacher and JD 100,000 robbery

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-man gang responsible for the murder of a moneymacher in Amman five months ago has been arrested and the criminals have confessed to the killing and armed robbery, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Majali, director-general of the PSD, speaking at a press conference to announce the arrest and details of the crime, identified the three as Ahmad Salem, 22, Nasser Ali, 28, and Ahmad Shweiti, 24. Lt.-Gen. Majali said that while Salem was the "mastermind" behind the crime, Shweiti provided the getaway car and Ali was the actual killer.

Moheiddin Al Bashiti, 22, a Jordanian moneymacher, was shot dead in the Jabal Hussein area on July 6, 1987, as he was leaving home for work carrying about JD 100,000 in Jordanian

and foreign currency. First reports had indicated that it was the work of a lone gunman who fled with the bag carrying the money. It was the first reported armed robbery in the Kingdom.

According to earlier reports, Mr. Bashiti resisted the assailant and in the ensuing struggle the criminal shot him. The young businessman was struck by at least four of the five bullets fired, according to police reports at the time.

Lt.-Gen. Majali told Tuesday's press conference that the stolen money had not been recovered, but "all conclusive evidence" had been collected by police before they made the arrest. The PSD chief revealed that the gang had burned the bag which contained the money and the shirt that the murderer was wearing at the time of the crime.

The money was shared among the three, Lt.-Gen. Majali said. One of them got married, another bought himself a car while the third criminal bought



A police photograph of the three men who have confessed to the July 6, 1987 murder of Mr. Mohammad Bashiti

some sheep to raise. Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

Explaining the background of the crime, Lt.-Gen. Majali said it was premeditated. First, the three planned to stage an armed attack on Mr. Bashiti's

(Continued on page 3)

Seoul seeks extradition of KAL mystery woman

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A South Korean envoy arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday to seek extradition of a mystery woman. Seoul officials suspect of planting a bomb on a Korean jet missing with 115 people aboard.

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil was due to meet senior officials to discuss the extradition of the Asian woman held in an island prison off Bahrain.

South Korean officials believe the woman, who swallowed a cyanide capsule after her arrest but survived, is one of two North Korean agents they suspect of planting a bomb on the plane, which vanished on Nov. 29.

The mass-circulation Mainichi Shim bun, citing a report it said reached Japanese police from Bahrain on Monday night, said Bahrain authorities detected the gunpowder during a chemical examination of the money belt.

The pair, carrying false Japanese passports, left the Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 in Abu Dhabi hours before it vanished over the Thai-Burmese border. Searches have found no trace of the aircraft.

The woman has yet to be identified and has refused to speak to Japanese, South Korean and Bahrain investigators. Japanese officials who talked to her companion before her arrest said he spoke fluent Japanese.

Iraqi planes strafe Iranian tanker

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes attacked an Iranian shuttle tanker in the Gulf on Tuesday, and Lloyds shipping intelligence identified the vessel as the 317,824-tonne Al Amoot.

Iran claimed its ground units on Monday shot down two Soviet-built Iraqi jet fighters, one with an U.S.-made Stinger missile. Iraq denied the loss of any aircraft.

It was the first time Iran claims the use of the shoulder-fired projectile against Iraqi aircraft in the seven-year-old war.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, was quoted as saying a major Iranian offensive against Iraq could be launched anytime and anywhere along the front, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi jets scored "accurate and effective hits against a very big naval target," usually signifying a tanker, at 1:40 p.m. (1040 GMT).

Lloyds, which monitors shipping worldwide, said the Al Amoot, an Iranian steam tanker, was hit in the Iraqi strike while ferrying oil from the key Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf to Larak Island facility in the Strait of Hormuz. It was hit south of the Iranian port of Bushehr and less than 30 kilometres off Iran's northern coast.

The tanker is part of Iran's shuttle tanker fleet which ferries oil from Kharg, which is bombed by the Iraqis almost daily, to safer terminals in the south. It was hit in an Iraqi raid on Feb. 1.

INA said the attack was in line

with "Iraq's resolve to cut off the economic and oil resources of the criminal Iranian regime."

It was the sixth attack on Iranian shipping reported by Iraq in 10 days, two of which were confirmed by Lloyds.

A tanker set on fire just outside

the Gulf is a retaliatory Iranian

attack two days ago is starting to break up and will probably be a total loss, shipping sources said.

They said the 85,129-tonne Norman Atlantic, registered in Singapore, was bending badly

and would probably start cracking soon under heat estimated at around 2,000-3,000 degrees Centigrade (3,600-5,400 F).

"Her shape is beginning to alter," one source told Reuter.

"She will break up but it's a slow process."

The sources said earlier they believed the Norman Atlantic would be the first vessel destroyed by Iran since its war with Iraq spilled over into Gulf shipping lanes in 1981.

Some EC member states had officially made progress on the issue a condition for approving new economic protocols between Israel and the 12-nation bloc that would cut tariffs for Israeli exports of cut flowers and other produce, diplomats said.



Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz bids farewell to His Majesty King Hussein upon King Hussein's departure from Riyadh Tuesday (Petra photo)

King returns after visit to S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday evening at the end of a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

During the visit, the King held talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and exchanged views with him on major issues on the Arab scene, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King's talks with the Saudi

leader covered a series of meetings

the monarch has undertaken

in the wake of the Nov. 8-11

extraordinary Arab summit held

in Amman.

Petra said Monday that His Majesty's talks with King Fahd

covered the outcome of the summit and "recent efforts aimed at bolstering Arab solidarity and the higher interests of the Arab Nation."

At the summit the King

crowned his efforts at mediating

differences between Syria and

Iraq by arranging a meeting be-

tween President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and President Saddam

Hussein of Iraq on the fringes of

Israelis maintain curfew on Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli troops

maintained a curfew on Gaza City for the third consecutive day on Tuesday following the killing of a Jewish settler in the occupied

Gaza Strip by Palestinian activists,

an Israeli army spokesman said.

He corrected an earlier state-

ment that the curfew had been

lifted but declined to explain the discrepancy.

The settler died in hospital on

Sunday a few hours after he was

attacked.

Israel Radio said most of the

suspects arrested after the killing

were released while a few re-

mained in police custody for

questioning.

The Israeli foreign minister,

Shimon Peres, suggested demili-

tarising the occupied Gaza Strip

on Monday in an angry exchange

with right-wing legislators who

opposed the curfew.

Yuval Neeman of the right-

Paris expels exiled Iranians to Gabon

PARIS (Agencies) — France expelled 17 exiled opponents of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to the West African state of Gabon on Tuesday as part of efforts to improve ties with Iran.

The Interior Ministry said the 14 Iranians and three Turks were all members or sympathizers of the People's Mujahedeen organization, a Baghdad-based guerrilla group fighting the Tehran government.

The Mujahedeen denounced the arrest of the 17 on Monday as payment by France of a "ransom" for the release last month of two French hostages in Beirut by a pro-Iranian underground group.

The Interior Ministry said nine other Mujahedeen members living in France — eight Iranians and one Turk — were forbidden to leave their place of residence.

In a statement, it said the expulsions were rushed through "for pressing reasons of national security".

"Their activities in our country constituted an immediate and grave threat to public order and harmed France's interests in the world," it said.

Mujahedeen leader Massoud Rajavi, who was himself forced to leave France for Baghdad in June last year, denounced the detention of his supporters as part of an "ugly deal" with Tehran.

The government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has denied paying any ransom for the release of hostages Roger Aude and Jean-Louis Normandin, but it acknowledges it is seeking to improve ties with Iran.

A week after the hostages' release, France allowed Iranian embassy official Vahid Gordji, wanted for questioning about bombings which killed 13 people in Paris last year, to leave the country after a summary appearance before a French magistrate. France has close ties with

Gabon, a former colony on the west coast of Africa, and has expelled Spanish Basque refugees there by agreement with President Omara Bongo.

But Prime Minister Chirac has ruled out full ties until Iran makes sure that all French hostages held in Lebanon are released by their kidnappers.

The crackdown drew widespread criticism.

"Shame on the Chirac government, which by this unworthy gesture denies the right of asylum and makes a pact with the Khomeini dictatorship," said Jack Lang of the opposition Socialist Party.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, speaking at a political rally in the city of Avalon south east of Paris on Monday night, rejected the attacks.

"We have no lessons to learn from anyone," he said. "We will never accept French people being held hostage, and we will do everything in our power, without compromising ourselves, without regard to other peoples' whining."

Mr. Pasqua has said he had the key role in arranging for the Nov. 27 release of Aude and Normandin.

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, has been held the longest. He was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

"The Chirac government has dishonoured itself," Mujahedeen member Mohammad Ali Massoumi said at a news conference at the group's headquarters in Avers-Sur-Oise north of Paris after the expulsions were announced.

"If anything happens to them, we know who is responsible for it," said Mr. Massoumi, who said he was detained Monday by police with other Mujahedeen members, but was later released.

Perez: Summit is lost opportunity for Mideast

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday the superpower summit in Washington was a missed opportunity for the Middle East peace process, but pledged to press for the issue to be dealt with at the next such meeting.

Peres also called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to lift restrictions placed on the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Asked about the Washington summit, Peres told the Associated Press after a speech to 700 delegates at the World Zionist Congress that U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev apparently hadn't included the Middle East in their agenda.

"I hoped that they would be dealing with the opening of negotiations at this summit but

apparently it did not happen," Peres said. "I hope that in between the two summits, we shall find another opportunity."

Peres has said he expected another Soviet-American summit next May or June although no date has yet been set.

On Monday, Peres told the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of Israel's parliament that "for Israel, this summit was a missed opportunity," the Jerusalem Post newspaper said.

Peres was quoted as saying the superpowers "will be cementing an agreement affecting the whole world, while the Middle East will remain the sole area where no progress is being made."

In a proposal rejected by Jordan and the Soviets, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had suggested in October that Israeli

and Arab leaders be invited to Washington during the superpower summit for talks under the auspices of the U.S. and Soviet leaders.

Peres, head of the centrist Labour Party, has endorsed a Jordanian push for an international conference on Middle East peace. He has said it should serve as an opener for direct talks between Israel and the Arab states.

Conference participants would include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France.

The plan has been blocked by Peres' coalition partner and political rival, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the staunchly conservative Likud Bloc.

Security men grabbed young rightist delegates and the chairman silenced Cohen.

Ruth Popkin, a reform Jew and head of the progressive American women's Zionist organization Hadassah, complained: "The first thing that happens when we arrive in Israel is that we are attacked."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Programme Review

15:55 Woodpecker

16:20 Children's programme

18:30 News

19:00 Cain and Abel

19:15 Local Programme

19:45 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Cultural program

22:30 Wrestling

23:00 News summary

23:55 News in French

17:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Sport School

20:00 News in Arabic

21:10 Documentary — Well-being - Breaking Out

22:00 News in English

22:20 Floodlife

23:10 Hi-De-Hi

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

& part on 2560 KHz, SW

Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music

08:00 Newdesk

Morning Show

News Summary

Morning Show Comd.

Men from the Ministry

Songs from Movies

News Summary

Readings

12:00 Po's Session

New Session

Pop Session

News Bulletin

Instruments

Easy Listening

Concert Hour

Focus 19:30 Special English News & Features

20:30 Magazine Show

21:00 News

21:30 Special English News & Features

22:00 News

22:30 News

Science Report

23:00 News

Music

News Desk

Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute [until Dec. 23].

* An exhibition of Creative Photography by Aram Darakjian [until Dec. 10].

* An art exhibition entitled "The Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council [until Dec. 17].

CINEMA

* "Ran" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

* By Dr. M. Kursten, President of Federal Institute for Geo-Sciences and Raw Materials at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

VIDEO

* Plastic Art at 4:00 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel: 6610267

American Centre ... 644371

British Council ... 6361478

French Cultural Centre ... 637009

Goethe Institute ... 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre ... 64205

Spanish Cultural Centre ... 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre ... 639717

Amman International Church (inter-denominational); meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Suri Tel: 617395

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church)

Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m.; Tel: 62365, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Tel: 815817.

Univ. of Jordan Library ... 643555

MUSEUMS

* Children's Heritage and Science Museum. "Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Rains kill 5 troops in Beirut barracks

BEIRUT (R) — Torrential rains undermined a military barracks in east Beirut on Tuesday bringing crashing down onto sleeping soldiers, killing five and injuring three.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun supervised rescue workers who dragged the bodies of the military policemen from the rubble at the flooded Jisr Al Basha barracks after dawn.

Lightning hit the transmitters of Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio, knocking it briefly off the air.

Zionists clash over religion and politics

TEL AVIV (R) — The 31st world Zionist congress erupted from torpor into strife on Tuesday with delegates from around the world attacking religious coercion and political patronage in Israel.

Disputes at the five-day congress, which opened on Sunday, boiled over briefly into fist fights as rightists furious at the allegations demanded an apology be made to Israel's chief rabbi.

Speakers deplored orthodox Judaism's monopoly on religious affairs in Israel and efforts by religious parties to restrict the definition of "who is a Jew" and to ban entertainment on the Jewish sabbath.

"Messianic politics is madness," declared Rabbi Arthur Herzberg, a senior leader of liberal Jews in the United States, to applause.

He said that if the religious parties were not prepared to be pragmatic, there would have to be a complete separation of synagogue and state.

Veteran religious politician Yosef Burg, a minister in Israeli governments for more than 30 years until he retired last year, was jeered when he criticised a coalition between the Labour Party and liberal and reform Jews at the congress.

Fist fights broke out on the conference floor when a rightist liberal Israeli delegate, Uzi Cohen, demanded that the conference apologise to Israel's chief rabbi.

Security men grabbed young rightist delegates and the chairman silenced Cohen.

Ruth Popkin, a reform Jew and head of the progressive American women's Zionist organization Hadassah, complained: "The first thing that happens when we arrive in Israel is that we are attacked."

U.S. embargo on Iran oil having little effect

By Robert Trautman
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A United States embargo imposed on Iranian oil six weeks ago has so far had little impact on Iran's shipments, but it has forced Tehran to offer heavy price discounts, U.S. government and oil industry analysts say.

"U.S. oil purchases from Iran, even at their height last summer, were small by overall Iranian sales, and so the total U.S. embargo is not likely to hurt Iran much," said Gary Sick, an Iran scholar at the Ford Foundation.

U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington has said that, for the embargo to hurt Iran, other allies — notably Japan and Italy — would have to join it and stop buying Iranian oil.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But they have not.

"The Iranians aren't having any difficulty finding buyers, although they are having trouble selling it at market prices," said one U.S. oil analyst in an interview with Reuters.

Iran is being forced to discount the price of its excess oil after the French move and the situation was made worse by the U.S. sanctions, oil analysts said.

Mr. Sick said that, with Franco-Iranian relations improving, France might resume buying Iran's oil.

Italy, a major importer of Iranian oil, has given it no official support and traders think it is unlikely to do so.

In Bonn, a spokesman for West Germany, which is a minor buyer of Iranian oil, said: "The government has no plans to follow the U.S. decision to put an embargo on Iranian oil. We are against embargoes."

Some British traders say the full impact of the sanctions will not be known

Home news

Seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals industry to discuss production, controls

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals due to open in Amman on Dec. 14 will discuss production of high-quality pharmaceutical products and controls over medicine production and imported medicine, according to Dr. Abdul Muttaeb Nasser, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medicinal Appliances.

He told a press conference here that the seminar will also review working papers on the role of the newly-established Arab federation and its objectives and the

economics of the pharmaceuticals industry in the Arab World.

The seminar has been organised in response to a call by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, which has been supporting the pharmaceuticals industry, with the purpose of providing high-quality pharmaceutical products to the Arab people and ensuring medicine security for the Arab World, Dr. Nasser said.

More than 100 pharmacists and representatives of Arab pharmaceutical industries will be taking part in the meetings, in addition

to delegates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and Swiss and American pharmaceutical companies.

The Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances, which is organising the seminar, was established in 1986 upon a call from the Arab health ministers. The federation, which is headquartered in Amman, groups 23 members representing medical and pharmaceutical industries in the Arab World.

Zarqa Governorate plans to build schools, increase services as population grows

By Nash'at Al Majali
Petra

ZARQA — A contract to set up 20 new schools throughout Zarqa Governorate was awarded recently, coming in line with the Ministry of Education's efforts to end the two-shift school system.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Tuesday, Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarneh described the situation of education and the availability of schools in relation to population as "satisfactory." With a population nearing 450,000, Zarqa is the second largest governorate, after Amman.

Mr. Qatarneh, whose government has an agro-industrial economic base, said that plans were underway to expand the rooms in a number of existing schools and to construct modern buildings, in order to provide a suitable atmosphere conducive to attracting as many students as possible.

In his wide-ranging interview, Mr. Qatarneh talked about the governorate's water, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications and health services and discussed developments achieved in the sectors of agriculture, industry, tourism and public works.

Despite the progress achieved in all these fields and sectors, Mr. Qatarneh maintained that the citizens of the governorate, in general, and those of the city of Zarqa, in particular, "were in dire need of the best of services."

"The effects of the services offered to people here are, more or less, not evident" due to the rapid expansion in construction, an increase in population and rapid migration to the govern-

orate, as well as opening new roads and asphaltating others, according to the Zarqa governor.

Mr. Qatarneh noted that committee for revitalising tourism activities in the governorate has been formed and entrusted with carrying out maintenance work on archaeological sites and discussing the possibilities of developing the area's tourist attractions.

On important and numerous agricultural projects executed during the past two years, Mr. Qatarneh pointed to the following activities: a project for developing the highlands, at a cost of JD 435,000; another scheme for developing the Zarqa River Basin, at a cost of JD 487,000; and two projects for planting trees and preventing soil erosion at a cost of JD 120,000.

Hmoud chairs meeting on river basin project

In a related development,

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud chaired a meeting on

Tuesday to evaluate the work on

developing the Zarqa River Basin, in light of a report submitted

on the scheme by a consultant

firm.

In addition to discussing the report, the meeting evaluated two other reports on the scheme prepared by its administration and the project's technical committee.

Mr. Hmoud stressed the importance of this project in the process of agricultural development in Jordan. The minister called on the parties involved in the project to find the best options and possibilities for meeting its goals.

In addition, he said that an "ambitious scheme" for building a 637-dunum youth sports city complex, including cultural facilities, was currently being discussed for possible implementation by the concerned officials. A plan to green the governorate in accordance with a gradual, annual plan is already underway, he added.

The department for public works is also carrying out the necessary maintenance of major roads and networks in the gov-

ernorate.

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Naji Al Ali: Art at death's doorstep

By Natalie Warren-Green

LONDON (AF) — Some of the unhappiest people are to be found in occupations commonly aimed at making people laugh. Naji Al Ali provoked laughter, but of the bitter kind.

Rather than regale his audience with light hearted caricaturing of its favourite heroes, Naji made it pause and think and often have second thoughts about its idols. It wasn't art for art's sake, and it proved lethal — for the artist. For all that attention and the massive but muted following, Naji Al Ali paid with his life.

Ali Naji Awad Al Adhami, popularly known as Naji Al Ali, the Palestinian cartoonist, was gunned down by an unidentified assailant in London and died of the wounds five weeks later on Aug. 29, 1987. As this was written, Scotland Yard was still investigating the murder.

To his friends, Naji's killing held few mysteries that mattered. The cartoonist quite plainly had become the victim of one of his numerous enemies, one of the many who had promised to liquidate him, one of the many whom Naji cynically seemed to have "offended" with his outspoken illustration of abuses or excesses within the Arab World.

Whatever it was about Naji's life that led him to draw cartoons of a highly controversial and bitter nature, his message touched the hearts and minds of the millions who, at one time or another, came across Naji's unmistakable "signature," the figure of a boy with his back to the audience and

hands usually folded at the back, in a metaphor for a conscious rejection of surroundings.

Naji was born in 1938 in Al Shajara village in the Galilee and, when he was 10, the family had to leave home to live in exile in the southern Lebanese refugee camp of Ain Al Helweh.

"That is where the roots of Naji's outrage at the world around him lay," one of Naji's close friends, writer Khalid Kishtainy, said in an interview. "He used his cartoons to express the bitterness he felt within him."

"His experiences of the refugee camps greatly disturbed him, and he turned to art to vent his feelings."

The late poet Ghassan Kanafani, who was himself assassinated in Lebanon in 1972, discovered Naji's talent during a visit to Ain Al Helweh in the late 1950s.

Naji was largely a self-taught man. Although he joined an art institute in Lebanon in the early 1960s, his studies were short-lived. Naji discontinued his art course to work in Kuwait for the *Al Tali'a* magazine.

He returned to Beirut to join the editorial board of the Lebanese newspaper *As Safir* and contributed his drawings to *Al Khalij* newspaper until 1983, when, shortly after the Israeli invasion, he returned to Kuwait and worked for *Al Qabas* newspaper. By 1984, he was again publishing his drawings in *Al Khalij*.

As promising as Naji's career may at first glance appear, however, those who knew him were aware of the stress he experienced as a result of the controversy he created with his cartoons.

"Naji was threatened on a number of occasions about the content of his work when he was in Kuwait," said Kishtainy.

"This caused problems for *Al Qabas*," he added, "that is why it was arranged for him to be transferred to England."

Naji began work in the London office of *Al Qabas* in October

Kishtainy says: "Naji had no belief in leaders, doctrines and philosophies of any kind. He was a devout Palestinian nationalist at heart but he never affiliated to any political organisation."

"He told me once," Kishtainy recalled, "that if he was killed for his cartoons, it would be an act of fate. He was prepared to risk it."

Sorrow, fury and disgust are strong sentiments which are conveyed throughout Naji's work.

An exhibition of his cartoons was organised by the friends of Naji, and presented by the Kufa Gallery, London, during November 1987. The collection provided a startling projection of Naji's themes.

Naji's wife and four children attended the opening. "We were all very proud of him," said his wife. "The cartoons were very popular."

From each wall of the crowded gallery, bold statements held a viewer's attention — the struggle for freedom of a suppressed people; barbed wire and ropes holding people down; and the power of the richer nations seen to grow at the expense of the less fortunate peoples.

One illustration, according to writer Buland Al Hayderi, presented the "shame of a fatherland that makes out of the skins of its murdered children footware for its murderers."

But Naji's cartoons illustrated foremost a deep commitment to his chief causes, the Palestinian quest for a national identity and his personal struggle against those who sought to silence him.

"Naji Al Ali never sought to make anyone laugh," said Buland Al Hayderi, "but to provoke us in the extreme, to stir our disgust of a condemned reality and to deepen our awareness of an essential cause that brings us together, in pain and expectation."

The consequence was tragic — he provoked the people at whom his work was aimed as well as the onlookers who he wished to inform.

The threats became increasingly malicious. A friend said that Naji received an anonymous telephone call in mid-June and was told: "You must correct your attitude. Don't say anything against the honest people."

Reports further indicate that Naji knew that he was in a dangerous position. Two weeks before the attack, he told the journal, *Index on Censorship*, that he regarded himself a sitting target.

"About three days before he was shot," recalled Kishtainy, "Naji's wife took one look at a cartoon and said, 'You've bad it now.'"

Naji was shot at close range through the right cheek on July 22, 1987, just outside the Chelsea offices of *Al Qabas*.

"We were all very shocked," a spokesman for the paper said. "Naji always had a smile for everyone whether he was under pressure or not, he did not seem at all worried about threats he may have received."

Another of his colleagues added, "We didn't think we were that important but someone obviously thinks we are."



1985, and he continued to contribute his work to *Al Khalij*.

His change of location did not stop the threats from people who featured in his cartoons. In fact, the threats became more sinister and insistent.

"Naji knew he was threatened and that his life was in danger," said Kishtainy. "his wife was extremely worried about him."

So why did Naji not change his style or themes?

"Naji Al Ali never sought to

Reagan's trump card

THE question of raising human rights practices in the Eastern bloc countries is a favourite item to every forum that deals with U.S.-Soviet or East-West relations. In what seemed to be a prelude to the ongoing Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said: "Human rights is always on our agenda at every meeting we have with the Soviet Union. It will be on the agenda next week at the summit, and I believe that there will be a good chunk of the total time of the summit devoted to the subject of human rights." He also said that "there has not been nearly as much progress as we would hope for or as we would expect" in the advance of human rights in the Eastern bloc. However, Whitehead expressed optimism that "after the summit, there will be a lot of progress."

Not long ago, President Reagan alluded to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." By saying so he was only reciting a basic Western assumption that only the Western-style democratic system can guarantee fundamental human rights everywhere, while all human rights violations originate from the Socialist-communist system which is regarded as intrinsically evil. Lopsided as this assumption is, it allows Western political actors to claim moral superiority in international affairs. Certainly, it leads to the point of stark absurdity when put to the litmus test of the Middle East.

The Israeli political system is a carbon copy of the Western democratic system which has been nourished to grow with Western assistance and American dollars. Built into this system are laws precisely designed to violate human rights in the most blatant manner. For example, Israel's so-called Law of Return confers exclusive nationality rights only to the Jews; Arabs of Palestinian origin are denied such rights. Another example is the Law of Citizenship, which classifies Israeli Jews as having Jewish nationality and Israeli Arabs as having Arab nationality. And thirdly, a wide range of national services are rendered to the Jewish population, while the Israeli Arabs are denied access to them. In other words, the civil liberties and human rights of the Arabs are trampled upon by a system that claims at the same time, to uphold the universality of human nature and human rights. When it comes to the question of the occupied territories, Israel knows no bounds in its human rights violations — torture, illegal detention, expropriation of Arab lands, collective punishment, demolition of houses, censorship and host of other crimes which dehumanise an entire Arab population. The U.S. turns a blind eye to all these violations.

At the ongoing Washington summit, Mr. Reagan is likely to broach the subject of human rights practices in the Soviet Union. He would, in substance, want more Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. The human rights question, therefore, is a political trump card Mr. Reagan will probably play, at the behest of Israel, to elicit concessions, and the Soviets are not so naive as not to be aware of the rules of this game.

The bitter taste of peace lingers on

Tony Walker and Andrew Whitley assess 10 years of Egyptian-Israeli relations, seeing the sometimes uneasy peace akin to a loveless marriage of opposites which survives

NOTHING illustrates better the gap in attitudes towards the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt than the two countries' differing approaches towards the 10th anniversary of late President Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem on November 19, 1977 to see Mr. Menachem Begin, prime minister, breaking for ever the mould of Middle East politics. The reporters have had a hard time finding much Egyptian response.

Those in government circles are particularly reluctant to draw attention to what remains an uncomfortable fact, for a country striving to refurbish its Arab credentials.

Less constrained are prominent figures who fell out with Mr. Sadat over his visit to Jerusalem, breaking ranks with the rest of the Arab World, which wanted a united front demanding Israel vacate the occupied territory in the Sinai, West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Ismail Fahmy, former foreign minister who resigned over the Sadat visit, said nothing has been achieved in the past decade to resolve the underlying Arab-Israel dispute.

He acknowledged there had been gains, such as the return of the Sinai and 10 years of peace between Egypt and Israel, but said the price for the Arabs had been too high. If Mr. Sadat had resisted the temptation of a separate peace with Israel, progress would have been made towards solving the Palestinian problem. Instead, the situation had "changed completely" and the Jewish settlement drive in the West Bank and Gaza had placed additional obstacles to peace.

Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kamal — who succeeded Mr. Fahmy as foreign minister and subsequently resigned in protest at the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement whose second stage should have led to autonomy for Palestinians under occupation — blamed Mr. Sadat for capitulating to the Americans and Israelis, thus putting no effective barriers in the way of Jewish settlements which have changed the face of the West Bank and Gaza. The lack of U.S. restraint on Israel, encouraged by Camp David's flexible terms, allowed Israel to take liberties with a divided Arab World.

He also cited the 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and occupation of Beirut, and the 1985 air strike against the Pales-

Death and politics in the Punjab

By C.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India — Vijay Kumar sat amid the bolts of cloth in the narrow shop inherited from his father and told of the horror that struck on the Hindu holiday of Divali.

"My father was sitting at home worshiping. Two Sikh youths climbed over the wall and shot him dead. I don't know why," Kumar said.

Hindu cloth merchant Ranjith Kumar was killed on Oct. 22 in the town of Chollasahab, south of this Sikh holy city in one of Punjab state's most violent districts. He was one of a dozen people, Sikhs and Hindus, killed in the town of 10,000 in two years.

More than 900 people have died this year in Punjab in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals fighting for a separate nation for their minority religion in northern India.

In that time, police have killed more than 320 men they branded as Sikh terrorists.

Last May, India's central government removed the elected government of the Sikh political party Akali Dal from power and took over running the state in an effort to halt the violence.

Still, the killing goes on, and many look at the seemingly endless violence and share the bewilderment of 25-year-old Vijay Kumar at the death of his father.

Punjab is India's richest farm state, supplying wheat, rice and other crops to the country's 780 million people. Industrious Sikh farmers and wily Hindu traders give it a per capita income of

more than \$1,000 a year.

In Chollasahab, Sikh shopkeeper Kundan Singh said: "People do not come from the villages. Every business is hurt. It's down 50 per cent. Nobody comes after 5 p.m. The shops used to be open until 10."

Dr. H.L. Passi, a physician at the government hospital in

4,416 rupees (\$339) — compared to 2,596 rupees (\$200) for the country overall.

Even these days, Punjab's roads are clogged with trucks and ox carts piled high with sugar cane from the harvest, and tractors plow the fields readying the ground for wheat.

The markets in Amritsar and other towns are crowded.

But the markets close early, buses do not run at night, and even the popular Punjabi sweet shops are deserted by mid-evening.

India's government bans the foreign tourists who used to visit the Sikh's Golden Temple in Amritsar. It was an army raid on the Golden Temple to dislodge radicals that led the revenge slaying of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards, and in turn to anti-Sikh riots in New Delhi.

Today, the Congress Party headed by Mrs. Gandhi's son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi, is holding rallies throughout Punjab. The opposition Sikh party Akali Dal is trying to recover from internal splits, and there is talk of a possible state election.

But the people talk less of politics — unless they are assessing blame — than they do of the chaos and fear in Punjab.

In Chollasahab, Sikh shopkeeper Kundan Singh said: "People do not come from the villages. Every business is hurt. It's down 50 per cent. Nobody comes after 5 p.m. The shops used to be open until 10."

Later, an inquiry demanded by Singh's neighbours — Sikh and Hindu — found he had no gun, nor any connection with Sikh militants.

"He was afraid because he was a Sikh," his widow said. "The government is fully responsible for the death of my husband."

Vijay Kumar, son of the slain Hindu merchant in Chollasahab, also blames Punjab's violence more on the government than on the Sikhs. "The government is

responsible. It is not able to control things," he said.

Sikh politicians say the ruling Congress Party gave encouragement to Sikh radicals in the early 1980s to try to split the Akali Dal, the Sikh political party.

Many Sikhs also say police exaggerate the Punjab problem, listing those killed in ordinary crimes as victims of Sikh terrorism. Punjab always was violent, known for land disputes, vengeance murders and quick-tempered Sikhs whose religion — "warrior-saints."

Both sides bemoan the increasing division between Sikhs and Hindus. The bond was once such that often one son in a large Hindu family would be raised as a Sikh, since the sect was seen as the protectors of Hindus against Muslims in the religious turmoil of India.

Sikhism was founded about 500 years ago as a middle ground between the two perpetually warring faiths, taking its belief in a single God from Islam but other practices from Hinduism.

Sikhs comprise only 2 per cent of India's people, who are 80 percent Hindu. But in Punjab, Sikhs are a slight majority among the 17 million population.

In the northern state, many Hindus still are fond of saying, "the Sikhs and the Hindus are one."

The Sikhs, however, see themselves as separate. "We are Indians; but we are Sikhs. We must get political identity," says Narinder Singh, the spokesman for the Golden Temple, the Sikh's holiest shrine.

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Tom Page laying to rest the ghosts of Vietnam

By Claudia Rader
Reuter

HARRIETSHAM, England — Tim Page, a British photographer known as "The Crazy Kid" of the press corps covering the Vietnam war, is finally laying to rest the ghosts of the 10-year conflict that defined and nearly destroyed his life.

Eighteen years after Page was nearly blown to pieces by a massive mine as he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon, he spoke quietly of the smoke and gunfire in the rice paddies and the long, desperate years of recovery.

"It was living life on the edge, we were all caught up in the magic of it. I fell in at the deep end and had to swim to survive," he said from his quiet cottage in the pastures of southeast England.

He is at work on his autobiography and has just published the dream he clutched at for a decade after he was evacuated from the battlefield — "Vietnam, Ten Years After," a beautiful, haunting photographic portrait of a landscape and a people emerging, like Page, from the ravages of war.

"It's my recovery from myself. I had all this stuff to exorcise, "he said, smoke curling from his hand-rolled cigarette.

Everywhere in his home are mementos, fragments of the war that raged for 10,000 days until April 1975, leaving millions dead.

The plaque on the cottage reads LZ-1, a salute to the landing zones where Huey helicopters

ters, the workhorses of the U.S. war effort, rose and descended, bringing in supplies and taking out the dead and wounded.

The ashtrays are made from upright artillery shells, the walls decorated with old press passes. The placid ginger cat is called Phuong — after a Daoist peace island in the Mekong River where Page and his friends used to go to escape the madness.

Page, 43, still has the beaten-up Pentax camera given to him by his first news editors when he arrived in Laos, fresh off the hippie trail across Europe and Asia, in 1965.

Shortly after, a coup broke out in Laos and Page was the only Western photographer there. The pictures won him some quick cash and a staff job in Vietnam with an American news agency. He was 19.

In the three years he spent based in Saigon, Page was wounded in action five times, saw friends die around him and survived in a haze of dope and the high of the battlefield.

He was labelled the "Crazy Kid" of the Vietnam press corps and was later the model for the crazed photographer hopper in Francis Ford Coppola's harrowing Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now".

He still wears the Rolex wrist-watch that froze at 14:02 on April 19, 1969 — "The day I was killed," Page says — when he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh city) into the blast of a 350-lb (160-kg)



Tom Page

anti-tank mine and was given 20 minutes to live.

Doctors took a two-inch piece of shrapnel from his head, removed a quarter of his brain and as Page puts it, filled the hole in with epoxy resin.

Page's left arm still hangs crookedly and he limps. He says he won't have children because his repeated exposure to the highly toxic defoliant Agent Orange would "make them look like a cross between a spider and someone's science experiment."

He spent the next 10 years stumbling through Europe and the United States and a failed marriage. On one rock-bottom day in Rome, he loaded a pistol, spun the chamber and pulled the trigger. He drew a blank.

"I spent those years corkscrewed into my problems, blacklisted as a crazy junkie. It took me until the end of the 70s to start parting the smokescreen," he said.

In 1980, Page returned to Vietnam for The Observer newspaper's magazine. "Going back threw a switch. It finally let the whole thing sink just low enough beneath me," he said.

He published a book called "Nam" and freelanced for travel magazines, shooting everything from British country life to sports events.

In 1985, as Vietnam celebrated the 10th anniversary of its unification, Page was back, photographing for the new book, travelling around the country, renewing Vietnamese contacts and revisiting old haunts.

"I don't think you can ever go to war and completely exorcise it," he said. "But now I feel I could go back and treat it as a strictly commercial venture."

Page married again last June and describes himself as a Buddhist and an ecologist. He says he is serene and loves photographing the changing light of the pastures outside his home.

He is writing his autobiography, "Page after Page", by fountain pen in thick legal binders. A show of his photographs opens in London this week. But namstalgia, as Page calls it, runs deep.

"I miss the camaraderie, the feeling of being on the cutting edge... we are creatures of what happened in Vietnam. Vietnam made, bent and reshaped the rules."

"I'd like to go back just for a spasm. I'm desperate to go on the road, to be a free spirit again," he said.



An Arab couple under way with their livestock. The proud Arabs of the Negev Desert are standing up to the might of Zionists in a fight for their ancestral land.

Bedouins continue to defy Israeli rulers

By Laszlo Trankovits

BEEERSHEBA (DPA) — The

mighty force arrived at dawn, in jeeps and army trucks and with powerful bulldozers. Almost 500 Israeli soldiers and police combed the tiny Negev desert village of Lagiya under the rapidly rising, scorching sun.

They searched every house — in vain — for weapons and locked some families in. "It was as though war has broken out," Suleyman Al Nassara said bitterly.

The dark-skinned men in flowing robes, some with tears in their eyes, looked on silently as the destruction was carried out on the edge of the village. In the background veiled women stood motionless watching the military

operation.

The target of the operation was a group of 2,000 olive trees. They were uprooted and carried away in the trucks.

Four hours later it was all over.

What had once been 50,000 square metres of flourishing olive

trees now resembled a cratered lunar landscape.

This recent episode put the spotlight briefly on a "painful conflict", as Amos Gilboa, the Israeli prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, put it.

Despite a major effort, Israel has yet to succeed in persuading the majority of the proud and willful Bedouins to settle down and integrate into the country's society.

On repeated occasions, Israeli law and the traditions of this nomadic people have clashed irreconcilably.

The Bedouins, pointing out that they have since time immemorial run things their own way in the Negev, refuse to accept this situation.

The Bedouins insist that the law of the desert should prevail, the law of established rights, tribal laws and tradition, the famous hospitality as well as blood feud are still very much a part of Bedouin life.

Most of them still travel by camel accompanied by herds of goats and sheep — believed to now total some 250,000 — through the Negev desert and set up their tents wherever they want.

But nowadays empty desert areas are few and far between in the Negev, since the military

seeking room for manoeuvres, landing strips and barracks have joined settlers and environmentalists in demanding land.

Injecting growth into the livestock market

Amid growing concern about the use of steroid-based products in cattle, the race is on to find "safe" drugs to promote growth. Peter Marsh reports on new techniques to produce faster-growing animals with leaner meat.

LONDON — The immune system — the complex bodily mechanism used by animals to ward off disease — may soon come into play in a set of novel techniques to produce leaner, faster-growing pigs and cattle. In future, these animals may be encouraged to develop into "super-breeders" as a result of injections of chemicals similar to the vaccines used to immunise against illness.

The immunological methods promise to become important in the quest to find safer chemicals to promote growth in animals. Sales of such products are likely to run to hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars a year in the 1990s.

Work in this area has come to the forefront because of widespread concern about potential health problems caused by steroid-based growth products, which have been used for years to fatten beef cattle, particularly in the U.S. These steroids are not broken down in the metabolic reactions inside the animal. The chemicals remain in its body and are later transferred to the stomach of a person, sometimes, it is feared, with unpleasant consequences.

A European Community ban on steroids, which is due to come into force in January, has helped to trigger interest in replacement techniques.

Most of the work so far in novel animal-growth products has centred on producing, by genetic engineering, hormones such as somatotropin which animals secrete naturally to aid their metabolic processes.

Regular injections of somatotropin could, so researchers envisage, either speed up growth or encourage an animal to produce more milk. Administering extra quantities of these hormones to animals would not be unsafe for

humans because the substances are broken down in the creatures' stomach before slaughtering takes place.

The new, immunity-based approach takes a different tack. It works by tricking the immune system in animals not so much to encourage growth processes to stop others which inhibit growth.

At the heart of this idea are the antibodies, or highly specific proteins, which the body's immune system routinely produces to kill invading antigens or foreign organic materials. These antigens include the viruses that cause disease.

Under some circumstances, antibodies can be stimulated via a vaccination to interfere with the metabolic machinery of cells. In particular, they can act in such a way that production of particular hormones which reduce growth is slowed down. One such anti-growth hormone — which normally works as a kind of brake to ensure that animals do not develop into giants — is called somatostatin.

With the inhibitory factor severely restrained, it follows that the animal develops more quickly — in much the same way as it would if given steroids or somatotropin-like hormones.

There is, however, a great advantage in that, once given a stock of the appropriate antibodies, the hormone such as somatostatin is "turned off" on a semi-permanent basis.

Although "top-ups" of the antibodies would be needed — in much the same way as a person has to receive booster injections now and again to ward off an illness like diphtheria or measles — the extra doses would be required far less regularly than the fresh shots required in the simple administering of growth hormones.

The work at the Hannah institute has won the financial support of the British Technology Group, the U.K. government's technolo-

gy-transfer arm. This is funding the institute — together with three other U.K. academic establishments which are also working on the concept — with £250,000 to bring its development work nearer the commercial stage.

Peter Bailey, director of the group's pharmaceuticals division, the immunological technique is International Minerals and Chemicals, a U.S. concern which is already well on the way towards turning out growth products based on the somatotropin concept. Bill Summers, new-products director at IMC's Pitman-Moore animal-health subsidiary, which has recently built a \$50 million facility to turn out growth hormones for pigs, says the immune technique is "an excellent idea" although it is still some years from commercialisation.

A variation on the immunological approach — and one which works with a startling directness — has come from the Hannah Research Institute in Scotland, which is financed by the U.K. government's Agriculture and Food Research Council.

Here scientists have injected rats with monoclonal (very pure) antibodies which operate by attacking certain types of fat cells, destroying them in exactly the way that they would mop up invading viruses. The technique has proved effective in turning out rats with particularly lean meat, something that could be promising commercially if applied to livestock.

The method, similar in concept to ideas that scientists have about destroying, with monoclonal antibodies, malignant cells in patients suffering from cancer, has similarities to the other immunological growth methods — though it has a certain extra elegance in not involving the operation of hormones.

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Indian astrologers use computers to help arrange 'ideal' marriages

By Prakash Chandra
National Geographic

NEW DELHI, India — India's astrologers are gazing deep into their computer printouts these days to create marriages made in heaven.

Arranging marriages provided a meagre living for astrologers — called "pandits" here — until personal computers came into the picture.

For example, 50-year-old Panji Bhaiji Tantrik of Meerut, a city about 50 miles northeast of New Delhi, earned barely 50 rupees (\$4) a month before he bought a computer. Now his computer horoscopes earn him almost 10,000 rupees (\$800) a month.

In a red-painted room in his house, he keeps a human skull and other instruments of his arts required to destroy his clients' enemies with black magic.

His computer sits in a more cheerful room, under a ceiling fan. All the computer needs is the date, time, and birthplace of a client. The software does the rest.

Both sets of parents who have agreed on a prospective husband or wife for one of their children go to such pandits to have both children's horoscopes cast. In a few minutes, the pandit can tell the parents whether the stars and planets are in the right relationships for a successful marriage.

If the stars are propitious, boy meets girl. If the pair approve of each other, which they almost always do, the wedding date is fixed — again according to the computer's recommendation.

Even well-educated Indians rely on computerised horoscopes for the serious business of finding a bride or groom. Dr. Anand Mohan went to a computer fore-

caster to check on the prospective bride of his son Sanjeev, 24, who is studying to be a doctor.

"The computer astrologer's predictions are perfect," Mohan says. "We know the exact date on which they should be engaged."

Fittingly, the bride-to-be, Niti Agarwal, 22, is a computer programmer.

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IOC chief warns countries against boycott of Olympics

GENEVA (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch will this week call on his executive board to punish states that boycott the Olympic Games by banning them from future competition.

Samaranch told Reuters he would submit his proposal to the Lausanne-based IOC's 12-member executive board at a meeting on Thursday.

He made his view clear as North Korea and South Korea headed for a showdown in their dispute over the summer Olympics, set to open in nine months.

North Korea has threatened to call for a Communist Bloc boycott unless it is accepted as a co-host of the 1988 Olympics.

Samaranch said that if any country accepted an IOC invitation to Seoul but then stayed away, "this national Olympic committee must be punished."

The IOC, the games' governing body, has set January 17 as the deadline for accepting a record 167 invitations to Seoul. More than 90 countries, including most in the West, have accepted but no communist state has replied.

If the executive board endorses the proposal it will be put to the

full 91-member IOC for final approval in February.

Samaranch said the ban would cover the following Summer Olympics. The next games after Seoul are set for 1992 in Samaranach's home town, Barcelona in Spain.

He said no consideration should be given to the athletic strength or importance of a boycotting state. Any boycotting nation should be punished and banned.

"The Soviet Union, as the United States, has the right, the full right, to accept or not to accept the invitation," he said. "You can accept or not accept, but if you accept, it is compulsory to take part in the games."

The United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980 in protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. Moscow led a 16-nation boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games, citing security concern.

Lendl rolls over Wilander to win Masters

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia crushed Sweden's Mats Wilander 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 on Monday night to win his third consecutive Masters tennis tournament and a record fifth overall.

Lendl was simply too powerful for Wilander, forcing him to run a marathon along the baseline throughout much of the match.

When the Swede did manage to make occasional forays to the net, Lendl punished him, blasting passing shots by him for winners.

Bie Nastase is second to Lendl in Masters tournament victories. The Romanian won it four times in the early 1970s.

Lendl, who won \$100,000 for his night's work, set the tone of the match by breaking Wilander in the very first game. He went on to break the third-ranked Wilander in the first game of all three

Greek soccer team in for a showdown

LONDON (AP) — As it tries to overcome a three-goal deficit in the second leg of its UEFA Cup third-round series against Honved, Panathinikios of Athens thinks it has two things going for it.

One is a dramatically changed lineup, with three new starters. The other is a big home-town crowd.

Less than 24 hours before Wednesday's kickoff, more than 65,000 tickets had been sold for the match in 70,000-seat Olympic stadium.

The fans will cheer as their favourites try to bounce back from a 5-2 loss in Budapest two weeks ago.

Other third-round matches scheduled Wednesday have Feyenoord Rotterdam at Bayer Leverkusen, Barcelona at Flaminari Vlora 4-1, Borussia Dortmund downed Bruges 3-0, Verona beat Sportul 3-1, Vitoria blanked Vitkovice 2-0 and Bremen edged Dynamo Tbilisi 2-1.

Coach Vassilis Daniel of Panathinikios has dropped defender Christos Vassilou from the starting lineup for being out of shape. He'll also be going without Lyandros Georgantzis, who is sitting out a suspension, and defender Yannis Kalitzakis.

Honives was reported confident Tuesday that it could maintain its three-goal edge. Coach Beritlan Bicskei said his team would resist attempts by the Greeks to force it into defensive play.

None of the visiting teams in the first leg won, although Esporol managed 1-1 draw at Inter and Bayer Leverkusen got a 2-2 tie at Feyenoord. Barcelona defeated Flaminari Vlora 4-1, Borussia Dortmund downed Bruges 3-0, Verona beat Sportul 3-1, Vitoria blanked Vitkovice 2-0 and Bremen edged Dynamo Tbilisi 2-1.

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Application forms are available from the school (telephone 845572) and should be returned by Wednesday, December 16.

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Sudden tie maintains world chess deadlock

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — The 21st game of the World Chess Championship between titleholder Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov was agreed drawn in a complex position after 28 moves on Monday.

The result kept the scores tied at 10½ points in the 24-game match, with three wins and 15 draws for each of the Soviet players.

Kasparov, 24, has the weight advantage of retaining the crown in the event of a 12-12 deadlock.

Karpov, 36, considered his rival's offer to split the point for more than 10 minutes before finally accepting.

Chess experts were puzzled by Kasparov's decision to try to force a draw by a perpetual repetition of moves. If the same position occurs three times with the same person to move, the game may be claimed drawn.

Kasparov, who had a rook for Karpov's knight and pawn, was widely considered to be in a good position to press for a win.

Icelandic grandmaster Heiki Olafsson said: "Kasparov may come to regret this later. I don't know if he was winning, but he was clearly better."

English international master Mark Hebden called the sudden

result pathetic and also believed that Kasparov sacrificed a chance for virtually clinching the match.

Siyavush Eganov, the head of Kasparov's delegation, was more philosophical.

"Perhaps Kasparov saw something everyone missed. Tell me, is it possible or not?" Eganov asked reporters.

It seemed clear that Kasparov intended to use his advantage of keeping the title in the event of a final tie and would take no risk.

The end of the game saw another instance of what may be a thaw in the stormy personal relations between the world's two top players.

When the result had been agreed, Kasparov and Karpov began to analyse and discuss the position amicably for over five minutes.

This standard chess formality had been lacking between the "two K's" since their 1984 match, but has become a regular occurrence in the latter stages in Seville.

The next game, with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces, is scheduled for Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. (1530 GMT).

Both players still have one time-out remaining for the final three games, which they may use at their discretion to postpone play.

Zurbriggen, Walliser back on ski track

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Defending World Cup overall champions Pirmin Zurbriggen and Maria Walliser had some good times in France after a lost weekend in Italy.

Ater slow starts in the season opening races in Italy, their good clockings on the slopes in downhill races this past weekend not only put them back in the overall standings scoreboard, but also sparked their Swiss team that had been sagging after dominating the ski season last year.

After being broken in the opening game of the last set, Wilander fought back to break Lendl in the sixth game at 15 when the Czechoslovak couldn't reach a drop shot.

Lendl broke game nine from deuce.

In less than two weeks, Lendl will have received cheques worth \$1,593,200.

they stopped the race Sunday. It was the best of motivations for me," he said.

Zurbriggen was beaten by just three hundredths of a second while Italy's Michael Mair was just a hundredth behind Zurbriggen.

It wasn't the first time that Zurbriggen has been involved in close finishes. "It was in Kranjska Gora (Yugoslavia) in 1985. I lost by one-hundredth of a second in a giant slalom," Zurbriggen said. Thomas Burgher, another Swiss, beat him there.

With his second, Zurbriggen moves into a challenging position for the overall World Cup men's lead. He won last year and in 1984 but only had a seventh in the first two races in Italy.

Actually four — one counted twice when Daniel Maher had to repeat his downhill victory. After being fogged out Sunday, when the race was stopped after 17 racers with him leading, he came back Monday in cold, crisp and sunny weather to do it again. He blitzed down the 3,500-metre Oezieller-Killy course in 1 minute, 59.52 seconds to edge Zurbriggen in one of the tightest World Cup downhill slaloms ever.

"It's difficult to win two times in a row in completely different conditions," Maher said. "It wasn't bad to be leading when

it was in the race. In a last-minute change in the regulations, Flamengo and Internaciona agreed that if the score is tied at the end of regulation time a 30-minute overtime will be played. If the tie persists, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks.

The champion will win an unprecedented fourth national title.

Internacional was national champion in 1975, 1976 and 1979,

while Flamengo won the title in 1980, 1982 and 1983.

The opening game was dull and disappointing for the 65,000 fans that packed Beira-Rio Stadium in the far southern city of Porto Alegre.

Flamengo, which had played inspired soccer during its electrifying semifinal series with Atletico Mineiro, abandoned its offensive style and fell back on defence, preoccupied with not losing.

Internacional, known more for its tough, scrappy defence than its offensive firepower, was virtually obliged to win its home game but had trouble penetrating the Flamengo defensive blockade.

Flamengo was jeopardised by a so-so performance by veteran star Zico, who commanded the team's victories in the semifinals.

The teams now go to Rio for the deciding game next Sunday. Some 150,000 fans are expected to attend the final on Flamengo's home field in Maracana Stadium, the world's largest.

There can be no tie in the final game. In a last-minute change in the regulations, Flamengo and Internaciona agreed that if the score is tied at the end of regulation time a 30-minute overtime will be played. If the tie persists, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks.

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Japan becomes leading banking power

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan dominated world banking in the first half of 1987, with foreigners more than tripling the money they deposited in Japanese banks compared with the first half of 1986, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported on Monday.

"The largest net providers of funds were the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, while the largest net absorbers of funds were Japan and the United States," said the monthly "IMF Memorandum."

A spokesman said the figures for individual provider countries could not be broken down.

The build-up of yen in foreigners' accounts is technically considered as borrowing by Japanese banks, since they are obliged to pay back deposits

when foreigners ask for them. This Japanese borrowing rose from \$32 billion between January and June last year to \$110 billion in the same period this year.

"That's normal when a currency is becoming a reserve currency," said Mr. John Williamson, an advisor to the IMF.

"People in other countries build up their deposits in yen because it's convenient to have them, and also in this case some of it may be speculation on a rise in the value of the yen," he said.

U.S. bank's inflow of deposits amounted to only \$17 billion, down from \$24 billion in the first half of 1986, the IMF reported.

While foreigners deposited \$110 billion in Japan, Japanese were depositing some of their own funds in other countries.

"Net flows from international

banks to Japan surged to \$47 billion in the first half of 1987, from \$8 billion a year earlier," the IMF said. "A substantial portion of those funds was recycled immediately to finance the purchase of external assets" such as real estate, art, stocks and bonds of U.S. companies.

Mr. Edward J. Lincoln, a research associate at the Brookings Institution, said the net increase of Japanese holdings abroad for the period is shown by the item that experts call the country's "surplus on current account."

According to the IMF, that amounted to \$44 billion for the six months of this year, up from \$36 billion in 1986.

The IMF reported that Japan's current account surplus, supplemented by what Japan absorbed from banks in other countries, was greater than the

value of the assets Japan purchased abroad by \$27 billion. That amount went into Japan's international reserves, bringing these to \$64 billion.

Mr. Lincoln said Japanese reserves of dollars are so high in part because the country's central bank bought huge amounts of dollars in an attempt to prop up the international price of the dollar.

The IMF said the huge growth of the money going into Japanese banks can be explained partly by the government action on Dec. 1 of last year to open a new system of offshore banking. With 181 financial firms licensed to take part, experts said this move made possible a big growth in deposits of what are called "Euroyen" — accumulations of Japanese currency outside the control of Japanese bank regulators.

average prices to sag between \$3 and \$4 per barrel since an August peak of \$21.

Tehran radio reported on Monday that Iran had offered them big discounts on December cargoes of crude, following official denials by Iran that it was selling cut-price petroleum.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh denied on Monday that Iran was selling oil at a discount and said such accusations were a propaganda ploy to head off Tehran's proposals to raise oil prices at this week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Japanese buyers said they had received telex messages from Iran's National Oil Company offering oil at prices linked to the free market, rather than at the higher, official OPEC-set level.

They said they had not yet replied to the proposed discount price formula, but added that it came as no surprise.

"It is the proposal we expected," said one term buyer. "It's not so attractive, but not so unattractive. Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have so far refused to change their December prices to us," he said.

OPEC oil ministers are gathering in Vienna for a meeting starting on Wednesday to try to resolve the problem of overproduction, which has led to widespread price discounting among members.

The world oil glut has caused

average prices to sag between \$3 and \$4 per barrel since an August peak of \$21.

Tehran radio reported on Monday that Aqazadeh would demand that OPEC raise oil prices by \$2.70 a barrel to offset inflation and the fall in the value of the dollar.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Aqazadeh told a Tehran news conference the falling dollar and world inflation had cut into the \$18 per barrel benchmark price of oil set by OPEC last year by \$2 and seventy cents respectively.

He also reiterated Iran's demand that oil prices be unpegged from the dollar.

Ministers from the 13-nation OPEC countries will try to hammer out production quotas and prices for 1988 at this week's meeting.

Total OPEC output in November was some 18.35 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with a self-imposed ceiling of 16.6 million b/d, a Reuter survey showed.

In Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday demanded that OPEC give it an oil export quota equal to that of its Gulf war for Iran, and said it

raised the estimate of its fixed oil reserves by 56 billion barrels to 110 billion barrels.

In Kuwait, Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Khalileh Al Sabah said Kuwait will not seek an increase in its oil output quota in Wednesday's OPEC meeting provided other members also hold back.

"It is not the time for demanding increases in quotas but for defending the prices," he said in an interview with Al Anba'a newspaper on Tuesday.

"Kuwait will not demand an increase in its oil quota unless other members, who have reasons less (justified) than ours, demand so," he was quoted as saying.

He added that an OPEC study showed it was in Kuwait's right to seek a bigger quota.

Kuwait's OPEC imposed quota is 94,000 b/d, but the country was estimated in a Reuter survey to be producing around 1.2 million b/d in November.

Saudi Arabia, backed by other Gulf OPEC members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq — says it wants to keep OPEC's official price unchanged.

"We are facing problem in defending the \$18 a barrel and there are discounts of up to \$3... thus it is unimaginable to speak about an adjustment or increasing oil prices," Sheikh Ali was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

U.S. banks may report big drop in profits

WASHINGTON (USA) — U.S. banks had record high earnings in the third quarter of this year, but their profitability for all of 1987 may be lower than for any year since 1934, during the depths of the Great Depression, according to a federal regulatory agency.

The approximately 14,000 commercial banks in the United States earned \$5,800 million in the three months ended Sept. 30,

which was \$500 million more than the previous record set in the first quarter of this year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported Monday.

In between these two record highs, however, came a record quarter loss of \$10,801 million. That was caused by the country's largest banks dumping \$21,200 million into their reserves to meet federal requirements to cover

potential losses on loans to foreign countries, particularly Brazil, the FDIC said.

Profitability, the ratio of profits to assets, ranged between 0.64 and 0.78 per cent from 1981 to 1986, the FDIC reported. That figure is expected to drop to 0.15 to 20 per cent this year, an FDIC official said.

Mr. L. William Seidman, chairman of the FDIC, said at a news conference that the sharp upturn in 3rd quarter earnings resulted from banks having to put far less into reserves and to the increasingly favourable spread between the interest banks pay on deposits and the interest they receive on loans.

He repeated his forecast of about 200 bank failures this year, another record since 1934. His agency, which insures deposits in banks and takes over debt-ridden institutions, expects that number of failures to decline somewhat next year but not as much as previously believed.

"The economy in the southwest is not improving," Mr. Seidman said in explaining the more pessimistic outlook. He said that falling oil prices in such produc-

tion states as Texas and Oklahoma have forced consumers and businesses to default on loans to banks.

Small banks that were profitable did well in the third quarter of this year. Net income of these banks climbed 14.3 per cent over the comparable quarter of 1986.

Aggregate net income at the nation's 10 largest banks soared 50 per cent over last year's third quarter, but only six of the 10 reported higher income, the FDIC said.

The 72 other banks with assets over \$5,000 million increased their net income 13 per cent over last year's comparable quarter, with those reporting increases outnumbering those reporting decreases by 3 to 1.

Iran offers big oil price discounts

TOKYO (R) — Japanese customers of Iranian oil said on Tuesday Tehran had offered them big discounts on December cargoes of crude, following official denials by Iran that it was selling cut-price petroleum.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh denied on Monday that Iran was selling oil at a discount and said such accusations were a propaganda ploy to head off Tehran's proposals to raise oil prices at this week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Japanese buyers said they had received telex messages from Iran's National Oil Company offering oil at prices linked to the free market, rather than at the higher, official OPEC-set level.

They said they had not yet replied to the proposed discount price formula, but added that it came as no surprise.

"It is the proposal we expected," said one term buyer. "It's not so attractive, but not so unattractive. Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have so far refused to change their December prices to us," he said.

OPEC oil ministers are gathering in Vienna for a meeting starting on Wednesday to try to resolve the problem of overproduction, which has led to widespread price discounting among members.

The world oil glut has caused

average prices to sag between \$3 and \$4 per barrel since an August peak of \$21.

Tehran radio reported on Monday that Aqazadeh would demand that OPEC raise oil prices by \$2.70 a barrel to offset inflation and the fall in the value of the dollar.

He also reiterated Iran's demand that oil prices be unpegged from the dollar.

Ministers from the 13-nation OPEC countries will try to hammer out production quotas and prices for 1988 at this week's meeting.

Total OPEC output in November was some 18.35 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with a self-imposed ceiling of 16.6 million b/d, a Reuter survey showed.

In Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday demanded that OPEC give it an oil export quota equal to that of its Gulf war for Iran, and said it

would otherwise not be able to abide by an allocation.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told the Iraqi News Agency on his departure to attend the OPEC meeting in Vienna:

"Our position, based on granting similar quotas for Iraq and Iran, remains the same ... and any violation for this would force Iraq not to abide by OPEC's quota."

Mr. Chalabi called on OPEC to "take a serious attitude to confront the price violations by the Iranian regime." He has accused Tehran of selling its oil at \$3 a barrel below the formal OPEC price of \$18 and said the meeting would discuss the issue.

Iraq produces nearly three million b/d, almost twice its OPEC quota, and could reach four million b/d with the completion of a new pipeline through Saudi Arabia in 1989.

Last December, OPEC allocated output quotas of 1.5 million b/d for Iraq and 2.36 million b/d for Iran. Baghdad rejected the quota and insisted on one similar to Tehran's.

Mr. Chalabi told a parliamentary meeting on Sunday that Iraq's oil production reached 2.85 million b/d in November, compared with 1.8 million b/d for the same month last year.

Iraqi oil exploration chief Hashem Al Kharsan said the same day that the country had

EC adopts liberalisation plan for airlines

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) —

The European Community (EC) on Monday adopted a modest but long-awaited plan to lower air fares and open European air routes to more competition.

Under the plan, adopted by the 12 EC transport ministers, the group-like deals between EC governments and their flagship air carriers will be broken up starting Jan. 1, and Europe's skies will be opened to new carriers and more routes.

"The commission will ensure that the package is complied with," Mr. Sutherland said. "It can and will be enforced."

The key hurdle to adoption of the plan after more than three years of wrangling was cleared last week when Spain and Britain settled a dispute over the sovereignty of the Gibraltar airport.

The package is to be in effect for three years. After that, proposals are to be made for further steps to reduce Europe's air fares, which have long been higher than those on similar U.S.

routes.

The package confirms many practices already adopted by scheduled airlines, but also broadens the use of discount and deep-discount fares.

It would open existing routes to more airlines and create new routes, especially between regional airports.

The deregulation scheme was grounded last June by Spain's unexpected objection to the listing of the Gibraltar airport as a British regional facility.

Spain threatened to veto the measure, saying it would undermine its claim to the long-disputed territory. Last week, Britain and Spain agreed to exclude the one-runway Gibraltar airport from the deregulation package.

An EC Commission official said the new deal will "severely limit" the governments' say in setting air fares and broaden the use of discounts, especially on

off-peak flights.

The deregulation plan, the official said, will open up "vast new route networks and inject more competition on existing routes.

The plan, however, is riddled with exceptions and limitations.

For example, all Greek and all but two Danish airports are exempt for three years from provisions liberalising routes from central to regional airports.

Six Italian airports which handle much of the passenger traffic in Italy are exempt, as are eight Spanish airports.

Numerous restrictions on discount and deep-discount fares will continue making cheaper flights unavailable to businessmen, the most frequent air travellers.

Mr. Sutherland said, however, "it's better to move this way than the confrontational way which would take longer."

Dollar edges down but shares trade higher

LONDON (R) — Shares rallied

but the dollar edged lower on Tuesday as dealers looked to U.S. trade figures due out on Thursday for an indication of where the world's turbulent financial markets might head next.

The dollar slipped about a quarter of a pfennig to trade around 1,6675 West German

marks, but was steady at 132.75 Japanese yen and 1,3625 Swiss francs and \$1.7970 to the British pound sterling.

Gold was fixed in London on Tuesday morning at \$483 an ounce, up \$1.85 from Monday's afternoon setting.

London shares rose 2.6 per cent, with the benchmark FTSE 100 share index up 42.1 points to

a morning high of 1,640.1. In Tokyo, the world's largest market, stocks rose 1.6 per cent.

"The rise in America and Tokyo has helped give people a bit of confidence, but worries about the dollar are a brake on enthusiasm," said a Frankfurt share dealer.

Investors worried then, and worry now, that a big trade gap will force the dollar down.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

JUMBLE THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

ROBAR
MYJUP
BALLEF
PROVLE

New arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BOOTY FLUKE WHOLLY LOTION
Answer: When you think you're fooling with the stock market be careful lest it do this — FOOL WITH YOU

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Commuter jet crash kills 44 in southern California

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A four-engine commuter jet crashed about 320 kilometres south of San Francisco on Monday, and all 44 passengers and crew were feared killed, an airline spokesman said.

Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) Flight 1771, which left Los Angeles at 6:30 p.m. est (1030 GMT) on a flight to San Francisco, disappeared from radar screens and lost radio contact with radio controllers in the vicinity of Paso Robles, a small community midway between the two cities.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said it had an unconfirmed report that the pilot reported gunshots in the cabin shortly before the crash.

Mike Doering, a spokesman at PSA corporate headquarters in San Diego, said the plane carried 39 passengers and a crew of five.

"There are no reported survivors and no indication as to the cause of the crash," he said.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman in Los Angeles said the bureau's disaster squad had been called in to investigate the crash because of the report the pilot had radioed hearing gunshots in the passenger compartment.

"The squad will investigate specifically whether the crash was caused by criminal activity,"

spokesman Fred Reagan said.

Officials said the plane crashed in hilly terrain about 18 kilometres west of the small community of Templeton and 22 kilometres south of Paso Robles.

Eyewitnesses said the craft appeared to nosedive just before it struck the ground and scattered pieces across the countryside.

"There was not even any significant parts of bodies," said Jack Strauss, one of the first to reach the scene. "It was just scattered everywhere."

A spokesman for the California Highway Patrol flew over the wreckage shortly after the crash and reported the plane had shattered into "tiny bits pieces."

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Fred Farar said in Washington the aircraft was flying at 22,000 feet (6,700 metres) when it disappeared from radar screens.

The plane was a British-made BAE 146. Doering said it was the second fatal crash in the airline's 39-year history.

PSA was recently taken over by USAIR and serves 29 cities in six Western states and Mexico.

Ersad to free detained opponents soon

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, seeking reconciliation with opponents trying to topple him, said he would end a state of emergency and free his detained rivals soon.

He made the pledge on Monday, a day after he dissolved parliament to pave the way for fresh elections.

Gen. Ershad declared a state of emergency Nov. 27 to thwart a month-long opposition campaign aimed at forcing his resignation.

"The emergency will not stay a minute longer than necessary," Gen. Ershad told a meeting of

Bangladesh's newspaper editors on Monday night.

He said he would soon release the main opposition leaders, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladeshi Nationalist Party Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, from house arrest.

"I hope the steps I have taken will create an atmosphere where we can bury our acrimonies and work towards establishing democracy," he said.

Gen. Ershad has already freed 13 detained politicians in order to create conditions for talks with the opposition. Home (interior) Minister Abdul Matin said.

Paper reports war crimes documents missing from U.N.

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 400 files of the United Nations War Crimes Commission are missing from the archives of the U.N. Headquarters, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

Of the 8,100 recently unsealed files, 433 have disappeared, the U.N. archives director, Alf Erlanson, told the newspaper.

Israeli officials, involved with the archives on a daily basis since war crimes allegations against former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim surfaced last year, reportedly were stunned by the news.

Some of the records, particularly on the reel of microfilm containing Yugoslavia's Waldheim file, were missing in blocks of up to six consecutive documents, the Post said.

"It's very, very difficult to give any real explanation," said Mr. Erlanson, who suggested the material must have disappeared when the records were filed in the late 1980s.

Mr. Erlanson told the newspaper officials first learned files were missing in the summer of 1986 when they began microfilm-

ing the aging records.

The U.N. War Crimes Commission compiled files after World War II of both facts and allegations of war crimes. They were unsealed earlier this fall, made available to government agencies that ask to see them.

Meanwhile, Austria asked the U.S. government Monday for clarification of its reasons for barring Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States, a diplomatic source said.

Austria specifically wished to know whether Dr. Waldheim was being barred because of charges that he took an active role in World War II persecutions or merely because he was in the vicinity of such activities, the source said.

Austrian Ambassador Friedrich Hoess gave a note to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Bodde Jr. calling attention to contradictory U.S. versions of the action, said the informant, who spoke on condition of being identified only as a source close to the Austrian embassy.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHICH SUIT?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦A J 9 4 2 2

♦6 4

♦Q 7

♦A 3 2

WEST

♦Q 8 7 6

♦A Q 2

♦J 10 9 8

♦6 5

♦Q J 4

EAST

♦K 5

♦A K 2

♦K 10 9 7 3

♦Q 6 5 4 3

♦Q J 4

SOUTH

♦10

♦K 9 5

♦A K 2

♦K 10 9 8 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

The obvious suit to develop first is not necessarily the right suit. This hand, constructed by Eddie Kantar, is an object lesson.

Note North's rebid. Since two spades was retrogressive he chose the jump rebid, and South had nowhere to go other than three no-trump.

After the lead of the jack of diamonds, your first chore is to count your tricks. You start with six top

tricks, so you have to develop three more. Which suit are you going to tackle first?

If your answer is the club suit, you must have miscounted. At best, you can develop two extra tricks in clubs (baring Q-J bare), and that will still leave you a trick short. Spades offers a much better chance.

That also tells you where to win the first trick. To develop and bring in the long spades, you need as many entries as possible to dummy. So win the first trick in hand and lead the ten of spades. Since you expect to surrender at least two tricks in the suit, you must find a 4-2 split.

If West covers, win and drive out the remaining honor. As the cards lie, he will play low. You do the same from dummy, and East's king wins. Let's presume East wins and returns a diamond. Win on the table, cash the ace of spades and continue with the jack. Regardless of what the defenders do, your contract is assured since the ace of clubs is still on the board as an entry. By tackling spades, you have increased your black-suit tricks to six. Had you played on clubs, you would have realized only five.

Police cordoned off several city blocks and marksmen surrounded the building as police helicopters patrolled overhead but no shots were fired by police.

Less than an hour after the shooting began the gunman smashed a 10th floor window and fell from a narrow ledge as others tried to grab his trailing legs.

"I don't know her very well," Mrs. Reagan said on Monday, ducking questions about her relations with Mrs. Gorbachev.

"She's very nice," the 66-year-old U.S. first lady added.

Nicaragua rejects rebel truce proposal

MANAGUA. Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega said Monday a year-end holiday ceasefire was "impossible" because the U.S.-supported contra rebels refused to accept an earlier call to lay down their arms.

A spokesman for the San Luis Obispo County sheriff's office said the rescue attempt was hampered by the rugged terrain and darkness.

Linda Williams, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said that, according to unconfirmed reports, both radio and radar contact with the plane were lost about the same time.

She said a three-member NTSB team was despatched from Los Angeles to the crash scene and would be joined by a larger group of investigators from Washington.

Gene Katz, a private pilot, said he was heading for Los Angeles in his small plane when he overheard the pilot of the doomed plane conversing with air traffic controllers.

"The PSA pilot ... said he had an emergency, there was gunfire, and he was squawking in 'seven-seven-zero-zero,' which is a special code for emergencies," Katz said.

"At that time, the controller said: 'Say again,' and the captain confirmed, he said, 'I have an emergency, gunfire, and that was the last communication.'

South African rampage claims 6 more lives

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six people were stabbed to death near the city of Pietermaritzburg in one of the worst outbreaks of violence in South Africa this year, police reported on Tuesday.

The victims, all blacks, included a 67-year-old man who was stabbed 129 times, they said. Police said the killers were a group of blacks who had gone on a rampage.

"We had a bad experience with a truce," Mr. Ortega said, referring to a 30-day ceasefire the Sandinista government unilaterally declared on Oct. 5.

"They (the rebels) mounted strong attacks against towns and didn't stop murdering during those 30 days. Under these conditions it is impossible to accept a new truce," he said.

At the request of Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the contras on Monday declared a 36-hour unilateral truce for celebrations of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.

There was no immediate word on whether fighting had stopped after the ceasefire took effect at 1800 GMT Monday.

While addressing a world leaders conference Monday, Mr. Ortega backed down from an earlier position and said future ceasefire talks could be held in the region.

Last week, indirect talks between the government and the rebels were held in the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean nation, because Mr. Ortega had said it would violate the spirit of the regional peace plan adopted on Aug. 7 to hold the negotiations in another Central American country.

There was no immediate response by his office or the Defense Ministry to the contra ceasefire announced in Miami, Florida, by rebel leader Adolfo Calero, one of six members of the directorate of the contra umbrella organization called the Nicaraguan Resistance.

We are asking the president to resign," opposition leader K.M. Obaidur Rahman said.

"Once he is out, everything will come in perfect line, including a fresh election," said Mr. Rahman, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

American shot down, captured

A U.S. citizen flying a small plane was shot down Sunday by Nicaraguan anti-aircraft fire and captured in the south east part of the country, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement distributed early Tuesday that the captured man was identified as James Jordan Denys, in his 50s, from the state of Illinois, no hometown was given.

According to the statement, Denys was flying a Cessna 172 "when he violated Nicaraguan airspace and was shot down by anti-aircraft fire" near San Juan Del Norte, 320 kilometres south east of Managua in Zelaya province, near the border with Costa Rica.

Police said a 22-year-old man stalked several floors of the building in Melbourne's financial and legal district, firing indiscriminately with military ammunition.

Nine people, including the gunman whose bloody corpse lay on the sidewalk, were confirmed dead late on Tuesday. Police were still searching the 19-storey building.

A further five people were wounded, one seriously.

"It's nine dead at this stage. We're still doing a head count," one policeman said at the scene of the city's second mass shooting in four months.

Nancy and Raisa will join their spouses at several official events during the summit, including White House arrival and departure ceremonies, two state dinners and viewing the signing of the treaty eliminating all medium and shorter-range nuclear weapons.

But the two first ladies have only one private meeting scheduled — a tour of the White House private quarters — and this has fuelled speculation in symbol-sensitive Washington that Mrs. Reagan is miffed at her Russian counterpart.

One private meeting is the minimum required by protocol.

Adding to the speculation in Washington are excerpts from a planned book by former White House spokesman Larry Speakes that suggest Mrs. Reagan dislikes Mrs. Gorbachev.

He said Mrs. Reagan decided not to go because she thought Raisa was not attending. When Mrs. Gorbachev changed her mind, Mrs. Reagan was locked into a schedule she couldn't change.

"She felt she had been used," Speakes said.

Mrs. Reagan, asked by reporters about Speakes' remarks, said only: "I didn't read it that way."

The first lady, who underwent breast cancer surgery on Oct. 17 and lost her mother 10 days later, said she would discuss her anti-drugs campaign with Mrs. Gorbachev.

Soviet officials said an itinerary for Mrs. Gorbachev may be issued later.

"I don't know her very well," Mrs. Reagan said on Monday, ducking questions about her relations with Mrs. Gorbachev.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

Egypt's population reaches 52 million

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's population topped the 52 million mark last week, an increase of over 1.5 million since November last year, a government report said on Tuesday. This was an annual population rise of 3.1 per cent. Results issued last April of a November 1986 census put the population at about 50.5 million, with an annual increase of 2.8 per cent. Official estimates project a 67 million population by 1999. Egypt has launched a five-year plan to stem the birth rate.

Town crier announces his own death

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish town crier announced his suicide over the municipal public address system on Monday and then plunged five floors to his death. Ismet Seven, the 47-year-old crier of Rize port on the Black Sea, told citizens he could not live on his salary and had been refused a pay rise. Anatolian News Agency reported